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Legal and policy frameworks, including issues related to authoritative data

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Note by the Secretariat

The Secretariat has the honour to bring to the attention of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management its report on the legal and policy issues to be considered in developing a framework to support global geospatial information management in the public and private sectors, including issues related to authoritative data. The report is available in the language of submission only from the website of the Committee of Experts (http://ggim.un.org/ggim_committee.html). The Committee of Experts is invited to take note of the report and to express its views on the way forward in addressing the issue.

Summary of the report

At its third session, held in July 2013, the Committee of Experts acknowledged that there are significant legal and policy challenges emerging related to the collection, use, storage and distribution of geospatial information, including issues related to the licensing, sharing, pricing, privacy, quality, liability, authority and security of data, and open data. The Committee of Experts further acknowledged the need to begin engaging with lawmakers, policymakers and lawyers on the value of geospatial information, including open data, and related applications and processes, as well as the need for governance in geospatial information management, and in this context specifically requested the Secretariat to reach out to the International Bar Association regarding the Association's current work on a draft convention on geoinformation. The Committee of Experts also asked the Secretariat to continue its work with the Centre for Spatial Law and Policy

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and interested Member States, building on the work of the regional entities and other relevant forums.

Prepared with the assistance of the Centre for Spatial Law and Policy, the report describes the issues that impact the requisite legal and policy frameworks globally and captures the Secretariat's engagement with the International Bar Association regarding the Association's current work on a draft convention on geoinformation.